

(b) if so, why has the officer been given the control of that Kendra;

(c) how can the same person be allowed to function as petitioner as well as the Chief Representative of the Respondents in Kashmir; and

(d) the logic thereof and the measures to undo the same?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shri Ashraf Lone (Sahil), Deputy Director of Programmes, Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar, has filed court cases in the J & K High Court regarding his promotion. Due to shortage of Director level officers, some deputy Director level officers have been given charge of the head of some Kendras.

(c) the court cases filed by Shri Mohd. Ashraf Lone (Sahil) are being defended through the Station Director, Radio Kashmir, Srinagar. As and when considered necessary, concerned officials from headquarter are also deputed to Srinagar to help in these court cases.

(d) Does not arise.

Licence Fee for Metro Prime time slots

1605. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati proposes to charge licence fee from content providers for Metro Prime time slot;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the content providers feel that by this measure chances of making losses are high; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan does not charge licence fee from content providers for Metro Prime Time Slots. Doordarshan only provides airtime slots to the Producers and charges telecast fee, applicable as per rate card or the slots are auctioned with or without floor price and the highest bidder is offered the slot(s) if he fulfils all the criteria for the bid. It is for the individual agency selected for the slot to sell the commercial time allotted to it to recover the investment. Doordarshan has no role in the marketing of the commercial airtime given to the agency/producer who has accepted the slot.